

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
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In the specification, please amend the following paragraphs as indicated:

P2
[0034] Figure 3 depicts an isometric view of the first support plate 160 and the second support 202. The first support plate 160 generally includes a plurality of support elements 302 that are adapted to maintain the substrate in a spaced-apart relation relative to the first support plate 160. The height of the support elements 302 is generally configured to allow a blade of the robots 136, 134 between the substrate seated on the support elements 302 and the support plate 160. Optionally, channels may be formed in the support plate 160 between the support elements 302 to provide space [[of]] for the blade of the robots 136, 134. The support elements 302 additionally allow the substrate to move parallel to a plane of the first support plate 160 without scratching or otherwise damaging the substrates. The support elements 302 may be low friction pads, roller balls or air bearings among others. In the embodiment depicted in Figure 3, the support elements 302 are plastic pads, for example, fabricated from a fluoropolymer. The distal ends 232 of the second support 202 may also include support elements 302 to minimize potential damage to the substrate.

P3
[0038] Figure 4 depicts a partial front view of the first support plate 160 and one embodiment of an alignment mechanism 304. The other alignment mechanisms are similarly constructed in one embodiment. The alignment mechanism 304 generally includes a pushing member 402 coupled by an arm 404 to a body 406. The body 406 has a shaft 408 disposed therethrough. The shaft 408 is coupled to the first support plate 160 by a pair of mounting brackets [[412]] 410 disposed to either side of the body 406. The shaft 408 is coupled to an actuator 412 that may be energized or prompted in another manner to cause the pushing member 402 to rotate about the shaft 408. The actuator 412 is typically coupled to a controller 414.

P4
[0042] The pushing member 402 generally includes a face 502 that contacts a misaligned substrate 106 as the alignment mechanism 304 is rotated. The face 502 generally pushes the substrate 106 in a first direction 512 into a predefined position.

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Typically, the first direction 512 is perpendicular to a rotational axis 514 of the shaft 408 and is tangential at an angle to the face 502. In one embodiment, the face 502 is concave to prevent the substrate 106 from lifting as the pushing member 402 rotates, thus ensuring movement of the substrate across the spacing elements 302 in the first direction 512. After rotating the pushing member 402 towards the center of the support plate 160, the actuator 412 generally returns the alignment mechanism 304 to the position depicted in Figure 5A where the pushing member 402 is clear of the substrate to facilitate substrate transfer.

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